

AUG 02 2001

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

The students, many of whom had no experience in construction work, were painting, replacing two interior doors, and doing other repair work at Johnson's home. There was one of 29 teams of 12-15 students participating in the World Changers project in Tupelo on July 7-14.

A dark, high-contrast image of a book cover, likely black leather, showing signs of wear and discoloration. The cover is plain, with no visible text or illustrations.

"We've seen nine kids saved right around this house since we've been working."

While construction work is the main order of the day, each team also spends time in Bible study and devotionals. Evenings at the school in Shannon (where they head-quartered) were full-blown contemporary youth worship services, giving the World



UP ON THE ROOF — World Changers volunteers brave scorching heat and an uneven pitch to replace the roof on a Tupelo resident's home during the World Changers project this month in the northeast Mississippi city. (Photo by Tony Martin)

MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE — Brad King (left), of First Church, Cleveland, Tenn., and Chris Green, of Elizabeth Church, Shelby, N.C., replace stairs leading to the back door of a home in Tupelo during the World Changers project July 7-14. (Photo by Tony Martin)

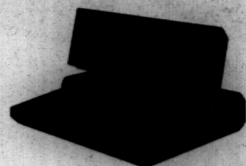
Watkins to retire

NAMB appoints pair

CBF marks decade

Letters to the editor

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Life changes no surprise to Christians

Anne Heche is getting married — to a man, no less. The 32-year-old actress, who made national headlines a few years ago for bringing fellow lesbian actress Ellen DeGeneres out of the closet and transforming her into the darling of the American entertainment/homosexual complex, has announced that she is marrying Coleman "Coley" Lafoon, a cameraman she met recently while filming a documentary on DeGeneres.

Well. Haven't we been told for decades that homosexuality is as natural and unalterable as skin color or dimples, that people's brains are hard wired for homosexuality?

Yes, we were told that a person has no choice other than to accept his/her homosexuality, and that person's family and friends have no choice other than to get used to the idea, too. Nothing would ever change. A homosexual is a homosexual for life.

Loud assertions from the pro-homosexual lobby aside, we are beginning to understand that such is not necessarily the case.

A study by widely-respected psychiatrist Robert Spitzer of Columbia University in New York City, released earlier this year, is casting grave doubts on what we have been led to believe.

A self-avowed atheist, Spitzer led the charge in 1973 that successfully removed homosexuality from the American Psychological Association's classification of mental disorders.

Yet when Spitzer analyzed the data from his latest study, he concluded that there is reason to believe a homosexual who is determined to change his sexual orientation is perfectly capable of doing so.

Spitzer's small-group study found that 66% of men and 44% of women surveyed who wanted to change had achieved "good heterosexual functioning."

That's not a surprise. It's just common sense. We know that a person who really wants to change can turn his back on a lifetime of alcohol abuse.

We know that a person who really wants to do so can lose weight, stop smoking, give up illegal drugs, or cease gambling.

We know it's never easy to do those things, but we know it can

be accomplished by people who are determined to change their lives. So why should homosexuality be the only exception?

Of course, Spitzer has been demonized by pro-homosexual groups, and the news of his study (like the news of Heche's marriage plans) barely caused a blip on the news media radar screen.

"I'm very pleased that there is a study that shows people like me exist," said Tim Wilkins, a former homosexual who became convicted of his sin and turned his life around. He was interviewed by Baptist Press shortly after the latest Spitzer study was released.

Wilkins now directs Cross Ministry, which proclaims freedom from homosexuality through Jesus Christ, and he attends a Southern Baptist church in North Carolina. He is married and has a one-year-old daughter.



None of this should come as a revelation to Christians. We are assured over and over in the Bible that Jesus Christ can turn our blackest sins as white as new-fallen snow.

We are assured that we have access to power the likes of which cannot be overcome by the machinations of the evil one.

Those of us who have allowed Jesus Christ to turn our lives around should avail ourselves of the twin opportunities of praying for the lost and personally leading them to our beloved Savior — regardless of their sin.

Jesus can work a miracle for the homosexual and the drunkard and the drug addict, just as he worked a miracle for each of us, but if we don't tell them about Jesus, how will they know?

May we, the privileged saved, be found faithful in helping to bring a lost Mississippi and the world to Christ.

GUEST OPINION:

Volunteers going in record numbers

By Ken Rhodes, director
Partnership Missions Department
Miss. Baptist Convention Board



**2001 MARGARET LACKY STATE MISSIONS OFFERING
GOAL: \$1,500,000**

- Connect each Mississippi Baptist church with a new church start or a church needing fellowship and prayer support.

- Partner with churches within North America to do Kingdom work within Mississippi and the world.

Reaching the 2001 MLSMO goal of \$1.5 million will afford Mississippi Baptists the privilege of providing scholarships to send volunteers to areas where the greatest spiritual needs and opportunities await.

The 2001 MLSMO goal of \$1,500,000 is challenging, but think of the even greater challenge presented to the world by \$310,000 invested in Mississippi volunteers.

The 2001 MLSMO theme, Above and Beyond... He is Able, is based upon Eph. 3:20-21, which reminds us that God is able to go above and beyond anything we could ask or imagine.

I encourage each Mississippi Baptist church to go the extra mile in giving at this time of the year. Also, please know you can give throughout the year as God directs toward any of the ministries included in the offering goal.

For us, \$1.5 million is a challenge. For the One who is above and beyond — he is able.

New Testament translation project complete

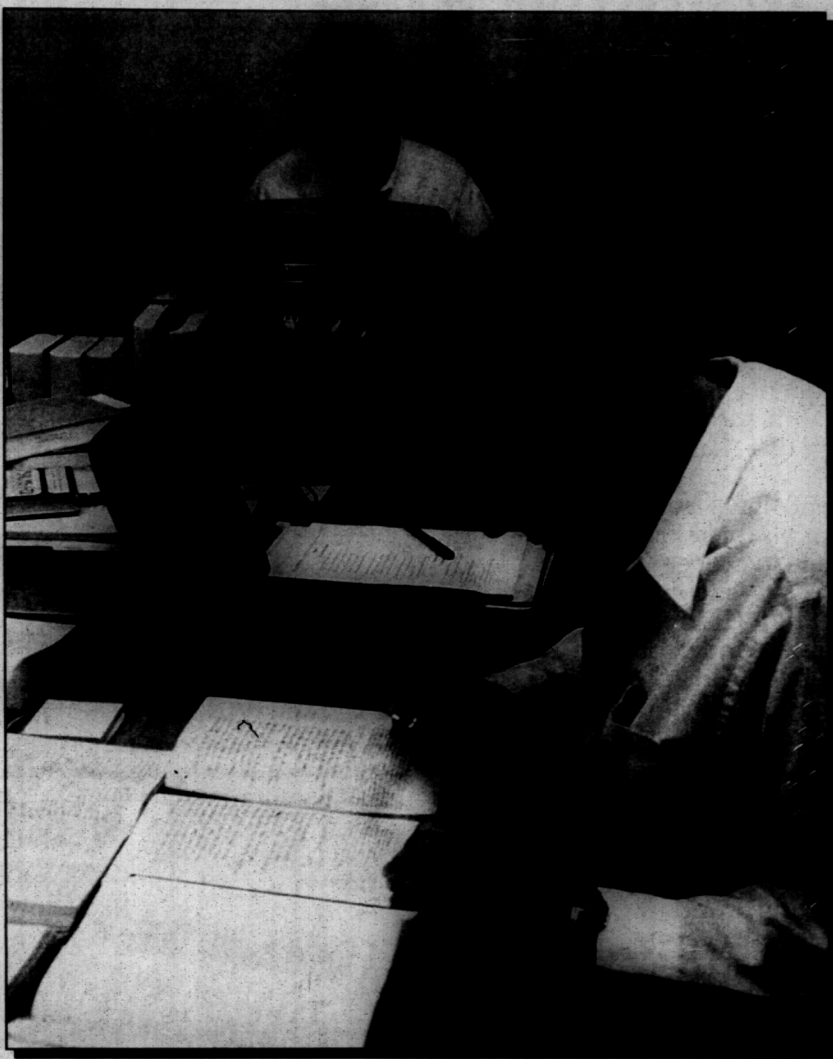
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Although selected Bible books from the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) have been released in various forms since 1999, the newest translation made its debut recently with the release of the complete New Testament featuring devotional notes by Henry Blackaby.

Part of a seven-year, \$10 million project, the entire HCSB translation — Old and New Testaments — will be completed in 2003, said David Shepherd, senior vice president and publisher for Broadman & Holman Publishers (BHP), a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Despite hundreds of translations on the market, Shepherd

said the HCSB bridges the gap between a literal translation and modern English versions

tailored for lower-level reading skills. "This is a fresh, modern English translation," he said.



ATTENTION TO DETAIL — Painsstaking attention to detail is a key part of the translation process for the Holman Christian Standard Bible. General Editor Ed Blum (left) and editor Frank Carmichael recently proofed copy for the translation at the Nashville headquarters of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

"Most work done lately has been on ease of reading, like the New Living Translation. That has a place and is helpful, but this is a new work on the other end of the spectrum, where accuracy is supreme."

Portions of the new translation were first released through such books as *The Christ We Knew*, with commentary by Calvin Miller; and *Experiencing The Word Through The Gospels*, featuring devotional notes by Blackaby.

The *Experiencing the Word New Testament* with Blackaby notes was released in June.

Earlier this year, a new Here's Hope edition, a low-priced paperback designed for evangelistic

outreach, and an Ultra Trim New Testament that can be slipped into a pocket or purse were released.

While many different LifeWay products will use the HCSB translation, *Experiencing the Word's* extended study format plays an important role in the New Testament release, said Ken Stephens, BHP president.

In addition to Blackaby's notes, the New Testament includes Greek word studies, topical subheadings and a Scripture reference list for the seven realities of God as outlined in the *Experiencing God* study course.

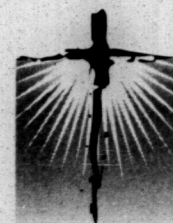
"We're giving them a lot of new features and benefits,"

Stephens said. "The word studies alone are worth the price of the New Testament, and we have a lot of other notes and thoughts by Henry. We're giving people a reason to buy it, and as they use it, they will interact with the translation."

While the products are fairly new, the reaction thus far has been very favorable, said Shepherd.

"This is aimed at those who want serious Bible study but in a version that is more readable than others on the market," he said.

Another product linked to the HCSB and released in June was *The Words of Christ* with commentary by Calvin Miller. *Share Jesus Without Fear*, a popular discipleship course, will be released in 2002 in a new edition using the HCSB.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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HCSB to include Blackaby

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The man whose "Experiencing God" discipleship course has helped Christians search for God's will for their lives is now working on a study Bible featuring the new Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) translation. Henry Blackaby is working with Broadman & Holman Publishers (BHP), a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, to produce the study Bible for release in 2003. BHP President Ken Stephens said some elements from the *Experiencing God* Study Bible, now out of print, will appear in the new study Bible. Blackaby said he is enthusiastic about the upcoming project because of his admiration for the new translation, particularly the way his notes were included in the recently released "Experiencing the Word New Testament." The headings over each Blackaby notation catch readers' attention and help point to answers in the Scripture. And thus far Blackaby said he has received overwhelmingly positive reaction to the new version. "The thing I try to do is write for the ordinary person," said Blackaby, a longtime Southern Baptist discipleship speaker and author now leading an Atlanta-based interdenominational ministry. While aiming his work at the person in the pew, Blackaby said he also believes the HCSB New Testament will be popular with clergy members. "To me, it's a very friendly Bible," Blackaby said. "I love to go to it because you can find your way around. It's got the helps you need, and I think it's going to be a well-accepted translation." Among the features Blackaby would like to incorporate into the study Bible are notes on the harmony of the Gospels, various helps on topics like the Pharisees or the synagogue, and a list of key words that are essential to biblical understanding. A good concordance and atlas also may be included so readers can approach the Bible study without needing a variety of other materials, he said. Blackaby said he envisions a study Bible that will be easily understood and have enough resources so that those who use it will look forward to spending time in God's Word. "That would be my desire," he said.

Looking back

10 years ago

James Breland, Baptist Student Union director at Delta State University (DSU) in Cleveland, retires after "40 years of fun." Observers believe Breland's service at DSU probably represents the longest single-campus tenure of any student director in the Southern Baptist Convention.

20 years ago

A suit is filed in U.S. District Court in Jackson to overturn a section of the 1890 Mississippi Constitution. The contested section consists of one statement: "No person who denies the existence of a Supreme Being shall hold any office in this state" (Article 14, Section 265).

50 years ago

Landrum Leavell accepts the calls to the Crosby and Berwick churches in Mississippi Association in the southwest portion of the state. The churches have agreed that he will preach the first and third Sundays at Berwick, and the second and fourth Sundays at Crosby.

BSU director Watkins sets new career path

By Linda Breazeale
Former MSU BSU member

For 21 years, Ken Watkins has helped students follow God's calling after they finished their work at Mississippi State University (MSU) in Starkville.

Now, it's his turn.

Watkins, director of the MSU Baptist Student Union (BSU) since 1980, will retire from student work in August. Before coming to MSU, he served eight years in Baptist student work at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

"My decision to leave did not come quickly, and God has had to speak clearly, consistently, and lovingly for me to hear him," Watkins said.

develop a balanced program that emphasizes evangelism, missions, discipleship, relationships, recreation, worship, leadership development, and service to local churches and throughout the community.

Additional MSU BSU staff members include Diana Bridges, who coordinates international ministries, and Greg Jones, a volunteer who assists in the nurturing of racial reconciliation.

His former students readily point to Watkins' ability to counsel them through the hardest course at MSU — life. Many of MSU's BSUers who have gone into the ministry as a profession, felt the calling while in college.

Mississippi pastors such as Ken Hester of First Church, Pontotoc, and Grant Arinder, of First Church, Ridgeland, readily admit Watkins' significant role in their lives and in following their ministry callings.

"Practically no one goes to Mississippi State planning to go into the ministry," Hester said. "I was majoring in agricultural engineering, and I intended to be a good deacon some day, but I didn't feel called into the ministry until my last semester.

"It was State's BSU that turned me on to the ministry."

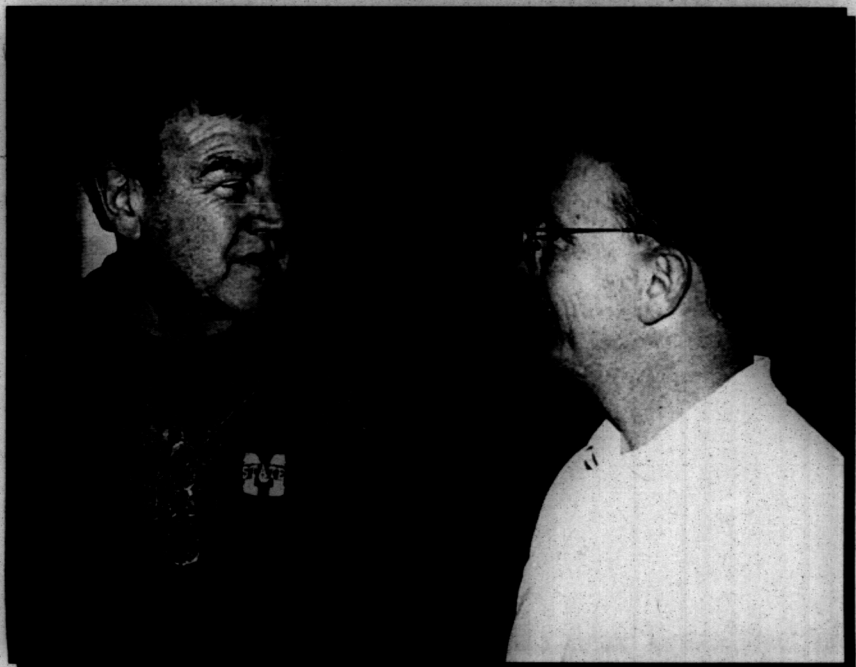
Hester, like many students through the years, sought out Watkins for relational discipleship. He said Watkins helped him see how all are called to serve and minister.

Cathy Pratt Curtis, a missionary to Burkina Faso since 1990, said relationships are one of Watkins' hallmarks.

"I've been blessed by his strong relational skills and impressed with the amount of time Ken was willing to invest in the lives of students," Curtis said.



CLOSE SHAVE — Ken Watkins (left), retiring Baptist Student Union (BSU) director at Mississippi State University in Starkville, fulfills a pledge made during a "beard auction" to raise money for 1984 summer missionaries. BSUer Linda Halfacre Osborne (right), who won the auction, is now BSU director at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston. (BR special photo)



OLD FRIENDS CHAT — Ken Watkins (left), retiring Baptist Student Union (BSU) director at Mississippi State University (MSU), talks with Allen Simpson, MSU BSU alumni president and pastor of First Church, Amory, during 2000 homecoming festivities on the Starkville campus. (BR special photo)

This fall, he will begin a year of residency in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, N.Y.

The new direction won't be far from his past course of counseling students, faculty, and staff as they walked through the painful and joyful times of their lives and ultimately sought God's will.

"Ken has been such an inspiration to me. I have been able to learn strength, confidence, leadership, and many other things from watching him," said Grant Alford, current MSU BSU president.

"I know without a doubt that God will use him in great and mighty ways in his new-found journey," Alford said.

Reflecting on his two decades at MSU, Watkins said he has enjoyed seeing students deepen their relationship to God, discover their gifts for ministry, and learn that God wants to use them in his kingdom's work.

During these years, scores of students have gone on to serve as pastors, church staff members, missionaries, campus ministers, and evangelists, while thousands of men and women have gone into the marketplace and local churches as lay persons with visions for service.

An appreciation for diversity has enabled Watkins and associate director June Scoggins to

"The relationship we started in my college years has deepened in the years since. He has been there to encourage and cheer me on, and offer counsel through every phase of my life," she said.

MSU graduate and BSU alum Michael Ball, who has served for several years as associate BSU director at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, will succeed Watkins in September.

"His transparency in dealing with students was always refreshing and encouraging. I look at the manner in which he built relationships as a standard by which I hope to conduct ministry as the new BSU director at MSU," Ball said.

Plans are underway to celebrate Watkins' years at MSU with a retirement party from 4-5:30 p.m. on Aug. 11, at the BSU in Starkville.

A dinner will follow at 6 p.m. The party and dinner are open to anyone who would like to pay tribute to Watkins, and the cost of the dinner is \$7 per person.

For more information on the party, dinner, and plans for a gift of appreciation for Watkins, contact Don Gann, pastor of Wynndale Church, Terry, at 11287 Springridge Road, Terry, Miss., 39170. Telephone: (601) 371-2429. E-mail: drgn@aol.com.

Breazeale, a 1985 graduate of MSU, is a member of First Church, Starkville.

NOBTS bivo music class opens Aug. 20

August 20 begins the first of eight courses at nine locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Seminary.

The eight courses are:

- Song Leading.
- Worship Planning.
- Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch.
- Reading Music: Harmony/Melody.
- Hymnology.
- Music Administration/Staff Relations.
- Survey of Music Resources.
- Class Voice.

These courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches. The eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is self-paced.

The cycle of classes is scheduled over a two-year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisites.

Each student who completes the eight courses earns a Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on-campus degree program.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$25.00. The cost of each course is \$85.00.

Scholarships are available for first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church.

The first course, Song Leading, will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive

weeks at the following locations and times:

- Emmanuel Church, Greenville - beginning August 20 (7-9 p.m.). Bobby Whittington, teacher.
- Broadmoor Church, Jackson - beginning August 20 (7-9 p.m.). Jimmy McCaleb, teacher.
- First Church, Columbus - beginning August 20 (7-9 p.m.). Bobby Sanderson, teacher.
- First Church, Purvis - beginning August 20 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.). James Hayes, teacher.
- First Church, Booneville - beginning August 20 (7-9 p.m.). LuAnne Reed, teacher.
- Northeast Church, Madison - beginning August 20 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.). Buddy McElroy, teacher.
- Hernando Church, Hattiesburg - beginning August 20 (7-9 p.m.). Barry McElroy, teacher.
- First Church, Adams - beginning August 20 (7-9 p.m.). Barry McElroy, teacher.
- First Church, Adams - beginning August 20 (7-9 p.m.). Barry McElroy, teacher.
- First Church, Adams - beginning August 20 (7-9 p.m.). Barry McElroy, teacher.

These classes could also be offered at other locations in the state, where 10-12 students are interested in enrolling.

For more information, contact Jimmy McCaleb in the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3273 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 273. E-mail: jmc@mbc.org.

Mississippians appointed by mission board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Two missionary couples with ties to Mississippi were recently appointed by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Atlanta.

Roger D. and Rose A. Bear serve as collegiate evangelism missionaries in Terre Haute, Indiana, where they serve as campus ministers for the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at Indiana State University (ISU).

Roger Bear, an Indiana native, is a graduate of Purdue University and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. He has been campus minister at ISU since 1984. Prior to attending seminary he worked as a high school language arts teacher in St. Leon, Ind.

Rose Bear, a graduate of Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, and Southwestern Seminary, has served with her husband at ISU in a volunteer capacity. She also has previous experience as a Baptist Student Union director while serving as a US-2 missionary, and served two summers as a summer missionary.

She also is a former trustee of the North American Mission Board.

The Bears have one child, Bethany, 17.

James L. "Lee" Jr. and Christie C. Merck serve as missionaries in Ovid, Colo., where Lee Merck is a church planter intern and pastor.

Merck, a native of Lucedale, is a graduate of Baptist-affiliated William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg, and Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

He previously has served as pastor of Beulah Church, Magee, and minister of youth for Thirty-Eighth Avenue Church in Hattiesburg.

Christie Merck, a Hattiesburg native, is also a graduate of WCC. She has worked as a medical technician in North Carolina and Mississippi.

She also has been a Sunday School teacher, Girls in Action leader, pianist, adult discipleship teacher, and ladies' Bible study leader.



The Bears



The Mercks

WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT

On a recent Saturday afternoon, my wife asked if I would pick up a couple of things at the drug store. I made a quick dash to the nearby store — but, to no avail. I walked up to those doors that come open when you get near them, and nothing happened!

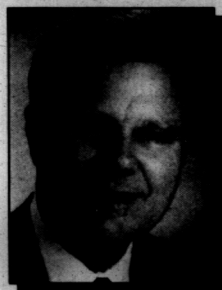
It was in the middle of the afternoon and I was sure the store wasn't closed, so I wondered if something was wrong with the doors. I peered inside, into the darkness, and there I saw, dimly, the workers sitting around near the entrance. The workers, in uniform, were at work, but they were doing nothing. The power had gone out!

They could not and would not let me in, so I was unable to get anything that I needed. I stood there looking around this strip shopping center and soon realized that every store was in the same condition — a cleaners, grocery store, sandwich shop — you know, the usual vendors — no power. Nobody could get anything and nobody could sell anything because the power was out.

It hasn't been that many years ago, before we made all this progress, that you still would have been able to pick up a bottle of milk and a loaf of bread — but, not now! You can't even buy a package of gum when the computers are down — even if you want to pay cash!

As I was peering inside the store, I could see where the items were located that I needed, but I couldn't get in, so I couldn't process the transaction, and therefore wasn't able to get hold of my needs. The power was out and nothing was working!

The key to everything happening, or in this case "not happening," could be summed up in one word — power. Jesus knew that that would be true with us also. The church, regardless of its works or wares, its bells and whistles, or its schemes and systems, it is nothing and is going nowhere without power!



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Just before he ascended into heaven Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Earlier in his ministry, Jesus had tried to convey so simply and yet so clearly, "without me, ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

As I stood outside the store on that Saturday afternoon and peered in at all the merchandise and supplies, I realized that none of it would be mine and the store clerks could not help me because the power was off.

I wonder: how many people come to our churches on Sunday and end up with that same feel-

ing? There are books, sounds, sermons, activities, and all kinds of provisions. Yet at times, surely not all the time, there is that "disconnectedness from it all" that reminds us that without his power nothing works — none of it means anything and nothing will help anyone!

It seems we are, at times, caught up in a swirl of debate and discussion in the world of religion — whether or not to use choruses; whether we should do away with this program or that; and, whether we should institute this means of communication or that.

In a world where there is posturing and positioning, games, trips, and activities — we might do well to stop and evaluate — look at the stock and realize that nothing is going to happen unless the power is on.

Probably, more often than not, what we prefer to do is go on making noises, running around in circles, pretending we are Samson charging out to meet the Philistines as before, and we don't take the time to realize that the power is gone.

God has the power and we can know the power! We can live in the wonderful presence of the power and experience the transformation created by the power, but we will never know it unless we access it from him and share it with others.

When the power is on, the wealth of God's storehouse is available. When the power is on, the doors open and people's needs are met!

Fish Tales playing Aug. 7-19 in Jackson

JACKSON, Miss. (Special) — Fish Tales, a one-man show about the Apostle Peter written and performed by popular Mississippi actor John Maxwell and directed by former Mississippi College theater instructor Ann Sullivan, will be performed August 7-19 at Galloway United Methodist Church in Jackson.

The play, which is written from Peter's point of view and begins with his first encounter with Jesus, received standing ovations during a recent run at New Stage Theater in Jackson.

"I had questioned whether people would come to see a one-man show on a religious figure like Peter," said Maxwell, who is a Christian. "Well, I found out in a hurry."

Maxwell said Fish Tales arose from a desire to put a face on characters he studied in Sunday School but which, for many people in modern times, have become "fossilized."

"My work is the Holy Spirit's work. I'm just the worker bee, and... so far, there's nothing better," he explained.



Maxwell as the Apostle Peter

Director Sullivan, a member of Northminster Church, Jackson, is the drama consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department.

She has helped stage One Voice, an ensemble of the Church Music Department, and she served on the committee that founded what is now known as the Christian Performing Arts Festival, sponsored annually by Mississippi Baptists.

She continues to serve as an instructor for the Festival.

"It has been a blessing to work with a talent like John Maxwell, who is using his gift to help others on their Christian journey," she said.

Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. for Tuesday through Thursday shows, and at 8 p.m. for Friday and Saturday shows.

There will be no show on Monday. Based on demand, a Saturday matinee may be added.

For more information and to order tickets, call Galloway Church at (601) 353-9691.

Conservative pastors conf. slated Aug. 9

Antioch Church, Columbus, will host the Mississippi Baptist Conservative Pastors Conference on August 9, beginning with an afternoon session at 2 p.m. and continuing with an evening session at 7 p.m.

Scheduled to speak are Jerry Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Fred Wolfe, member of Crossgates Church, Brandon, and former pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala.; Kara Blackard, pastor of Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth; and Roger Moran, who represents Missouri Baptists on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Special music will include the Quartet from First Church, Stoneville; Ray Bennett, associate pastor of Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth; and Mary Ann Johnson, a member of Rienzi Church, Rienzi.

Dinner will be provided at 5:30 p.m. for pastors and program personalities. There is no charge for the meal.

For more information, contact Edward N. Knox, pastor, Antioch Church, 6080 Highway 45 N., Columbus, MS 39705. Telephone: (662) 328-4765.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Youth of First Church, McLaurin, Hattiesburg

VBS result

Escatawpa Church,
Escatawpa: June 25-29; 169 children enrolled; 50 workers; \$491 collected.

The youth of First Church, McLaurin, Hattiesburg, traveled to Charleston, S. C. for M-fuge, June 23-29. Pictured (from left, back row) are Wayne Boyd, counselor; T.C. Chambliss; Laverna Dent, counselor; Miriam Easterling, youth leader; Shawn Morgan; Jonathan Dent; Nikki Shows; Haley Lewis of Pine View Church; and Chris Easterling; (front row) Amber Boyd and Tiffany Wood.

Farmhaven Church, Madison County, will have a Sunday Night on Monday Night service July 30 at 7 p.m. The speaker will be Hal Kitchings, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton; and Phil Dixon, Clinton, will be featured soloist. Charles Gentry is pastor.

Old Hebron Church, New Hebron, will feature The Chalks in concert on July 29 at 7 p.m. Eddie Myers is pastor.

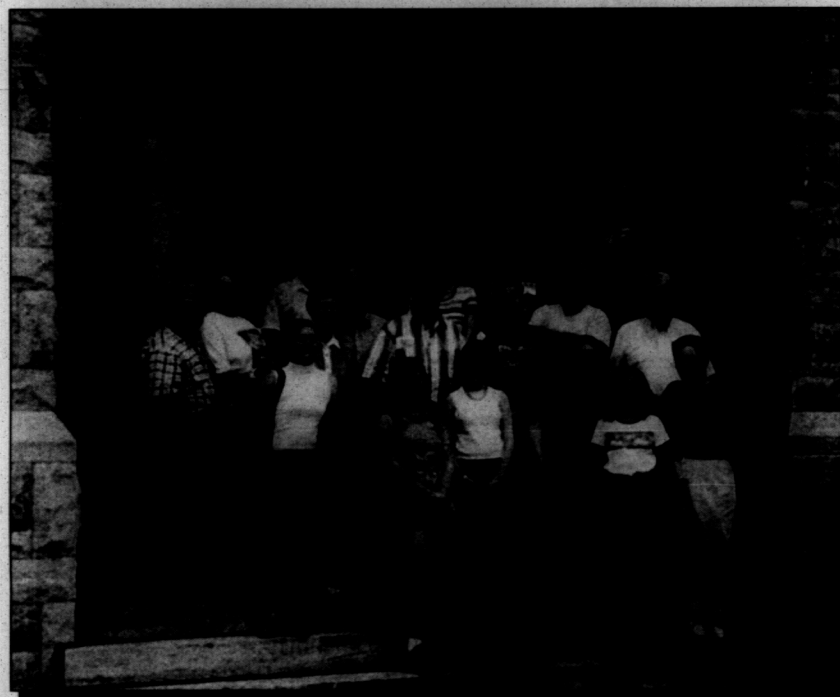
Twenty-two members of First Church, Gautier, participated in ministry and construction projects at Seventh Church, Baltimore, Md., June 23-30. Members (pictured) who participated were Jerry, Judy, and Kristi Barlow; Ronnie and Gloria Blakeney; Deana and Amy Bush; Tommy Cash; Mandi Howard; Aubrey Irwin; Melanie Lawler; Bryan Randolph; Stacey Schattgen; Mike Sanders; Kelly Staup; Richard Walker; Buddy Watts; Walter Green; Charles and Matt Welch; and Billy and Rebecca Williams. Some worked in construction and others led in Bible school and parenting classes. This is one of the volunteer groups involved in the Mississippi-Maryland/Delaware Partnership.

Johns Church, Brandon, will have a praise and worship service on July 29 at 6 p.m. Fellowship will follow. Gary Blakeney is pastor.

We Will Worship, a call to intimacy with God, will be presented by the worship choir and praise band of Pinelake Church, Brandon, July 28 at 6:30 p.m. and July 29 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. For additional information contact the worship ministry office at (601) 992-2630.



Mission-Fuge participants from Union Church, Panola Association



Mission team from First Church, Gautier

North Greenwood Church, Greenwood, is sponsoring A Holiday Evening with Sandi Patty Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. The Christmas concert will kick off her 2001 Christmas tour and will be held at the Leflore County Convention Center in Greenwood. For more information, contact the church office at (662) 453-2801 or www.ccauthority.com.

Mission-Fuge participants from Union Church, Panola Association spent the week of June 16-22 in Mobile, Ala., ministering to under-privileged kids. Pictured (from left) are Samantha Spaur, Deanne Smith, Jessica Dover, Jenny Stroud, and Dana Smith.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

CHURCH AVERAGING 100 in Sunday School seeks full-time associate pastor/minister of music and youth. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH/ACTIVITIES NEEDED. Please send resume to First Baptist Church of Runnelstown, Search Committee, 9211 Hwy 42, Petal, MS 39465; (601) 583-3733.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF PRESCHOOL for First Baptist Church, Madison. Send resume to P.O. Box 400, Madison, MS 39130, ATTN: Terry; or e-mail tmartinez@fbcmadison.org.

HOMEcomings

Ebenezer (Holmes): July 29; 11 a.m.; James Pugh, former pastor, speaker; B. J. Jenkins, music during Sunday School hour; Billy Jack Barron, pastor.

Fernwood Church, Gulfport: Aug. 12; 76th anniversary; 11 a.m.; Ray Duplessie, worship leader; Paul Oglesbee, message; fellowship dinner and afternoon praise service will follow the worship; Jim Kultau, pastor.

Good Hope, Camden: July 29; 150th year anniversary; church service followed by a covered dish lunch and singing.

Sardis (Smith): Aug. 5; 10:30 a.m.; dinner at noon in fellowship hall; Wayne

Adams, former pastor, guest speaker; Harvest Quartet in concert at 1:30 p.m.; John Purvis, pastor; Frank Smith, music.

Siloam, Magee: Aug. 5; 108th anniversary; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; revival, Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Buddy Keyes, Richton, guest speaker; Robert Bolling, Moselle, music; Gerald Aultman, pastor.



Bible drill participants of Williamsville Church, Kosciusko

Youth Bible drill participants of Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, pictured (from left) are Lenita Gentry, leader; Emily Jones; Kelly Quick; Sarah Snuggs; Megan Burdine; Dustin Gentry; and Cathy Barnes, leader.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 26, 2001

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication**.

SENIORS

State Senior Rally

Thursday, August 30
Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison (601-898-2345)
 Cost - \$1 at the door 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Speakers: Calvin Miller, Bill Causey and Gene Rester
Music by "Sweet Adelines"



Calvin Miller

State Senior Adult Leadership Lab

(open to ministers, officers, Sunday School teachers)

November 1-2, 2001
 (registration 1:30 p.m., 11/1, adjourn 1:00 p.m., 11/2)
Camp Garaywa, Clinton (601-924-5062)
 Cost: \$65 (meals and lodging) OR \$10 for Friday events with lunch only OR \$5 for workshops only (no meals or lodging)

Speakers: Bobby Shows, Dennis Daniels, Janie Walters and Horace Kerr. **Music by R.L. and Beth Sigrest**



Bobby Shows

Registration: State Senior Leadership Lab

Registration Deadline: October 29, 2001

Name _____
 Phone _____
 Address _____
 Church _____
 Amount Enclosed _____

Cost: \$65 - includes registration, three meals and one night's lodging OR \$10 for Friday events and lunch only OR \$5 for workshops (no lodging or meals).
 Make checks payable to MBCB and mail to: Glenn Shows,
 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
 PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530

Contact Glenn Shows at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800.

Mississippi WMU Church Leadership Training

FOR ALL CHURCH WMU LEADERSHIP

August 6

FBC, Batesville, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

August 7

FBC, Gulfport, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

August 9

Camp Garaywa

(two sessions, attend one only)

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. or 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

No cost/No registration required

For more info, call the

Mississippi WMU department at

1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-292-3316

or E-mail: tanderson@mbcb.org



MEN'S MINISTRY STATE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

August 17-18, 2001

Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: August 3
Cost: \$20 per person (includes meals and lodging)

Call the MBCB Men's Ministry for more info:
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 601-968-3800

AREAS of TRAINING

All sessions are designed to equip church leadership to have a more effective program.



Friday's Featured Speaker
Jim Futral
Executive Director-Treasurer, MBCB



Saturday's Featured Speaker
Larry Cox
Vice President
Public Relations & Development, IMB

- Developing a Life-Changing Men's Ministry in Your Church
- New Royal Ambassadors Leaders Training
- Experienced Royal Ambassador Leadership
- Understanding Today's Children
- Dealing with Generations
- Royal Ambassador's Missions and Activities
- Developing Small Groups That Work

- How to Develop Mission Projects
- Camp Craft Training for Leaders
- New Programs for Men
- Reaching Men in the Community
- Disaster Relief
- World Changers/Challengers/Youth Missions
- Mission Opportunities Worldwide
- Last Frontier Open Doors

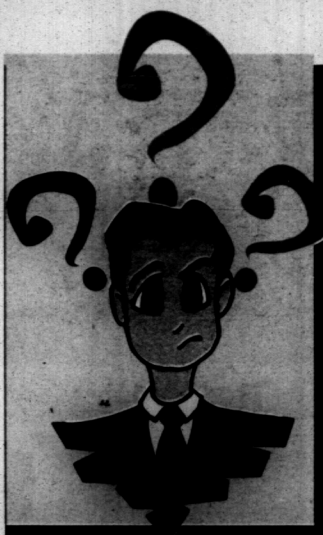
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**Professional
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Jenell Miller

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Ministries Department



Leadership Conferences

Younger Preschool
Older Preschool
Younger Children
Middle Children
Older Children
Younger Youth
Older Youth
Young Adults
Median Adults
Senior Adults
General Officers
Pastor/Staff

*Ever had this thought?
"If I could just do a few things to
make my Sunday School better..."
Then Super Saturday is for you!*

Super Saturday

CHOOSE FROM ONE OF THREE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

- Saturday, August 25, 9 a.m.-noon**
- First Baptist Church, Grenada
 - Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg
- Saturday, September 8, 9 a.m.-noon**
- Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian

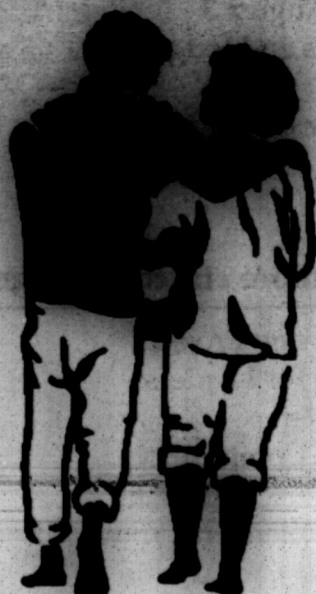
Cost: \$2 per person, which covers all conference materials as well as a copy of the book, "Beyond the Walls: Ten Best Practices."

Conference leaders will be special Sunday School equippers from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as well as LifeWay conference leaders.

For more info, please contact the MBCB Sunday School Department at
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

Pastor Wife and Retreat

August 10-11, 2001
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly



Leaders: L.B. and Nancy Jordan, Arkadelphia, Ark. L.B. is retired director of Church-Minister Relations, Arkansas Baptist Convention.

Music/Worship Leader: Eric McNair, minister of music, McLaurin Heights Baptist Church, Pearl

Purpose: To provide a time of encouragement, inspiration and fellowship for pastors and wives.

Reservation and Registration:

- Participation is limited to the first hundred (100) couples that register for this retreat. This number is based on the available private accommodations at Gulfshore.
- You may use the 2001 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly Information brochure's registration form or register using the form below.

Cost Per Person: Adults, \$44.50 Children ages 12 & up, \$24.75 Children ages 2-11, \$13.63 Children under 2, \$1
Full scholarships for pastors are available, but each will be responsible for the cost of his wife and/or children. Please indicate choice on the registration form below.

Childcare: Supervised care will be made available for preschoolers, children and youth.

Pastor & Wife Retreat Registration • August 10-11, 2001

Name _____ Church _____

Address _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Please indicate the type of accommodations needed: ☐ Couple only ☐ Couple with children

Total number in family _____ Ages of children _____ Scholarship for pastors only: ☐ yes ☐ no

Please mail or fax to: Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

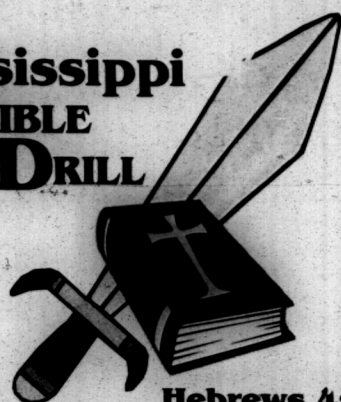
Phone: 228-452-7261 Fax: 228-452-7263

Please include a deposit of \$40 per person and \$80 per family. MasterCard and Visa are accepted.

Sponsored by: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Matt Buckles, director

For more info: Call the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305.

Mississippi BIBLE DRILL



Hebrews 4:12

Cycle 3 2002 Children's Bible Drill

2002 State Bible Drills

| DATE | LOCATION | TIME |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Monday April 8 | Biloxi, FBC Batesville, FBC | 2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday April 9 | Greenwood, FBC Brookhaven, FBC | 2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| Thursday April 11 | Saltillo, FBC (Churches inside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union Co. & Tishomingo Associations) | 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| | Tupelo, FBC (Churches outside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union Co. & Tishomingo Associations) | 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| Friday April 12 | Starkville, FBC (Churches inside Golden Triangle & Winston Associations) | 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| | Louisville, FBC (Churches outside Golden Triangle & Winston Associations) | 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| Saturday April 13 | Clinton, FBC (Churches inside Metro, Rankin & Warren Associations) | 9:00 a.m.-noon |
| | Richland, FBC (Churches outside Metro, Rankin & Warren Associations) | 9:00 a.m.-noon |
| Monday April 15 | Meridian, FBC Petal, Petal-Harvey BC | 2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday April 16 | Laurel, FBC | 2:30-4:30 p.m. |

Cycle 3 2002 Youth Bible Drill

STATE BIBLE DRILLS 2002

| DATE | LOCATION | TIME |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| MONDAY April 8 | Biloxi, FBC Batesville, FBC | 2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| TUESDAY April 9 | Greenwood, FBC Brookhaven, FBC | 2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| THURSDAY April 11 | Saltillo, FBC (Churches inside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union County and Tishomingo Associations) | 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| | Tupelo, FBC (Churches outside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union County and Tishomingo Associations) | 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| FRIDAY April 12 | Starkville, FBC (Churches inside Golden Triangle and Winston Associations) | 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| | Louisville, FBC (Churches outside Golden Triangle and Winston Associations) | 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| SATURDAY April 13 | Clinton, FBC (Churches inside Metro, Rankin and Warren Associations) | 9:00 a.m.-noon |
| | Richland, FBC (Churches outside Metro, Rankin, and Warren Associations) | 9:00 a.m.-noon |
| MONDAY April 15 | Meridian, FBC Petal, Petal-Harvey BC | 2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| TUESDAY April 16 | Laurel, FBC | 2:30-4:30 p.m. |
| WEDNESDAY April 17 | Laurel, FBC | 2:30-4:30 p.m. |

For more information,
contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-968-3800.

Concert in Concert

August 6, 2001, 7 p.m.
Hernando Baptist Church

Youth Speakers Tournament 2002

State Youth Speakers Tournament

Saturday, April 20, 2002
10 a.m.

Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson
Registration: 9:30 a.m. until 9:50 a.m.

For more information, contact
the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-968-3800.

T O U R N A M E N T T O P I C S

- Why Live Like A Christian?
- To Be Or Not To Be A Leader
- Pray...It Is Just That Simple
- It's Time To Take Off The Mask
- The Solution, Not The Problem
- Don't Worry...
- Can I Make A Difference On My Campus?
- 10% Of What?
- Color Your World
- I Want To Be Like You
- Distinctly Different
- Looking For Love In All The Wrong Faces
- Holy Sweat
- It's All For You
- The Experience
- The Waiting Game
- Why I Am Not Prejudiced...
- It's Easier To Succeed Than To Not Succeed
- Living Patiently
- Home Life
- Disciple Now!

Pray this day for...

July 27 - August 9, 2001

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PRAYING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL AND GLORY

"If our petitions are in accordance with His will, and if we seek His glory in the asking, the answers will come in ways that will astonish us and fill our hearts with songs of thanksgiving."

I. Kennedy Maclean

You've prayed for the water problems of the Nagos of Benin. The Nago Team has received funding to install a well pump. Please pray that all will go well without major problems. Pray that this act of kindness leads people to the Living Water.

For: (1) Social Issues - Pornography (CAC Emphasis); (2) Felix Sermon is an army chaplain. His battalion is deployed for their second six-month tour in Kosovo. Pray for the peacekeeping missions and for the families of the soldiers.

Baptist reps. Joe and Chari Vasquez ask prayer for summer projects including a door-to-door distribution of "Jesus" videos by a university team from Texas, day-camp activities, a children's camp, a women's conference, and city-wide evangelistic event.

For: (1) Church WMU Leadership Training, FBC, Batesville; (2) Pray that God will use the grain distribution of the SBC World Hunger Fund to touch hearts and open doors, and for opportunities for the Songhai Team in Niger to share the gospel in greater depth.

Soon, a believer will be traveling in Libya proclaiming the Word. Pray for safety and wisdom in dealing with the nationals and for favor with the officials. Ask God to prepare the Libyans for the Gospel and for help from fellow believers.

For: (1) Church WMU Leadership Training; FBC, Gulfport; (2) Pray for God to raise up workers for Dhaka, Bangladesh, to work among the various segments of society who are fundamentalist followers of a world religion.

Pray for the ministry and safety of chaplains as they serve in military services, healthcare facilities, prisons, corporations, and public safety agencies, often being separated from their families. Some will lose their jobs due to cutbacks.

A group of 13 volunteers will travel to Cote d'Ivoire to minister with missionaries Jerry and Carol Robertson in August. Pray for them as they prayerwalk in Nafana villages. Pray that the Lord will be glorified before this lovely people group.

Pray with Jon and Mindy Jamison, evangelism consultants in Des Moines, Iowa, for God to call pastors to 20 SBC pastorless churches in Iowa. Pray for volunteers for the Inner City Baptist Center and to prayerwalk in the neighborhoods.

Pray for missionary Tim Swihart in South Korea as he preaches every Saturday night to a group of 50-70 Christian medical personnel. Pray for more and more medical personnel to respond to God's call to reach the unreached peoples of Asia.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, Mississippi Coliseum, 6:30-9 p.m. (Evang.); (2) Recently, some Baptists went to Ambon, Indonesia, the site of violent ethnic-cleansing. Pray for their safety as they seek to minister to the people of Ambon and Seram.

For: (1) IV Centrifuge, Gulfshore Assembly, July 28-Aug. 2 (LifeWay); (2) The vast majority of China's Christians are women. Pray for single Christian women as they trust God to provide Christian husbands. 2 Corinthians 6:14

For: (1) Worship Conference, Baptist Building, Jackson (CM); (2) Judy Rice, WMU mission ministries director, Alaska, asks prayer for the 52nd annual meeting of the Alaska WMU, Aug. 6-7. Pray for the 55th Alaska Baptist Convention, Aug. 7-8.

The Center for Excellence meets in Colombia and has asked a member of the Nicodemus Team to speak to selected employees of a major Colombian airline about spiritual foundations. Pray for an abundant harvest from the seeds planted.

BAPTIST HYMNALS NEEDED FOR AFRICAN SEMINARY

The only seminary in Africa offering a graduate degree in church music is in Ogbomosho, Nigeria. Currently, most African church choirs sing only the melody of hymns from memory, for they have only the words without music.

Jimmy McCaleb, Church Music Department consultant, after teaching a course at this seminary, has a burden to provide our fellow Baptist musicians in Africa with copies of the 1991 Baptist Hymnal. Their choirs could then proclaim the theology of our Baptist faith in beautiful four-part harmony!

You can help with a financial gift. One hymnal is \$5. A box of 20 is \$100. If you or your church group would like to participate in this ministry, please call Jimmy McCaleb at 601-292-3273, 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail him at jmccaleb@mbcb.org.

Checks may be made out to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mailed to:

Jimmy McCaleb
MBCB
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!



2/87

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HOUSE TOPS.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College (MC) is offering a series of reviews to assist students who are preparing to take the Sept. 22 American College Testing Assessment (ACT). Each review is \$15 and is independent of the other reviews, allowing students to attend only those that are pertinent to their needs. Times and dates are Sept. 8: 9-11:30 a.m., test mechanics review, and 1-3:30 p.m., grammar review. Registration deadline for Sept. 8 classes is Aug. 31. Sept. 15: 9-11:30 a.m.,

math review and 1-3:30 p.m., science review. Registration deadline for Sept. 15 classes is Sept. 7. Pre-registration is required. All reviews will be held on the MC campus. For more information or for registration forms, call Carole Moore at (601) 925-3265 or e-mail: continuing-ed@mc.edu.

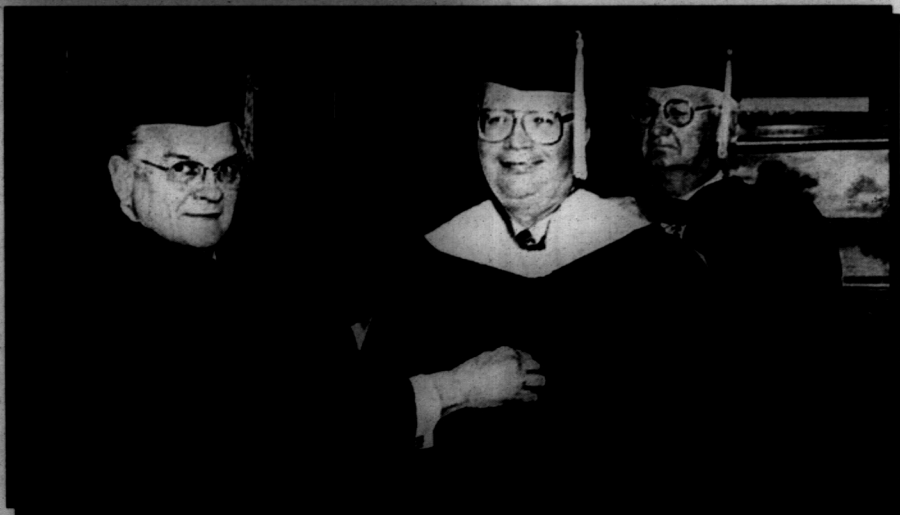
Carolyn C. Shanks, president and CEO of Entergy, will be the speaker at the Mississippi College summer graduation exercises on Saturday, Aug. 4. The commencement ceremonies are



Shanks

scheduled for 10 a.m. in the A.E. Wood Coliseum. Lloyd Roberts, interim president, will confer degrees for approximately 140 graduates.

Bettye R. Coward (center), president-elect of Blue Mountain College (BMC), delivered the address to the graduating class. Pictured with Coward are J. Heywood Washburn (left), chairman of board of trustees, and E. Harold Fisher (right), president of BMC.



E. Harold Fisher, president of Blue Mountain College (left), and J. Heywood Washburn (right) assist Dean William Washburn as he receives the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities.



Blue Mountain College (BMC) announces the retirement of four faculty members whose combined service to BMC totals 117 years. Pictured with E. Harold Fisher, president (center), are (from left) retirees Dean William Washburn, G. Edward Ludlow, Monique Cimon, and Imogene Mauney Hardon.



Washburn, Coward, and Fisher

CLASSIFIED ADS

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THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION FOUNDATION seeks chief executive responsible for fund raising and management of existing relationships, employees, and assets. Requirements include: undergraduate degree, five to eight years of progressive work experience in the areas of development and investment/trust oversight, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, planned giving technical expertise, growing Christian, and a graduate degree in business or finance is preferred. Send resumes to Crawford L. Taylor, Jr., Chair, WMU Foundation Search Committee, 336 Vesclub Drive, Birmingham, AL 35216.

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PARADISE LANES: Mississippi's smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS, (601) 372-7700.

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BRANSON, MO CONDO - sleeps six. Stay 3 nights, 4th free or 5 nights, 6th and 7th free. Free coffee, tea, and cocoa. \$100.00 daily. Register for free return trip. Accommodates large groups. Call early for reservations (662) 746-4632.

ECONOMY PASSION PLAY PACKAGE FOR GROUPS. Tickets, lodging, and meals, all for just \$36 at Keller's Country Dorm Resort, Eureka Springs, Ark. Call (800) 859-8952.

SILVERDALE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHATTANOOGA, TN is accepting resumes for full-time director of children's ministries. Must have full time ministry experience to guide large children's program. Benefits. Send resume to Search Committee, 7236 Bonny Oaks Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37421. **LEARN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.** Print the e-book from our website www.goldenkeys.com.

MULTI-STAFF CHURCH WITH 650-800 in worship located in the North Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati area, seeks experienced full-time pastor. Members give to CBF and SBC causes. Accepting applications through August. Please send profile to: Pastor Search Committee, Erlanger Baptist Church, 116 Commonwealth Ave., Erlanger, KY 41018.

Calvary, Canton: Aug. 19-22; Sunday, 10:15 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wed. night service followed by fellowship; Tom Rayburn, evangelist; Louis Jones, music; Mary Jo Dacus, pianist.

Kreole Avenue, Moss Point: Aug. 5-10; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; John Mereck, Lucedale, evangelist; Danny Atwell, music; Ken Chambless, pastor.

Rome, Rome: July 29-Aug. 2; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Lester Jeffers, evangelist; Brent Garrison, music.

Monument Drive, Tupelo: July 29-Aug. 1; 7 p.m.; David Hamilton, Pontotoc, evangelist; Lester Mason, music; Tommy Tackett, pastor.

Liberty, Carrollton: Aug. 5-8; 7 p.m. nightly; Gary "C.W." Jackson, French Camp, evangelist; Joe Styron, Kilmichael, music; Riley Ainsworth, pastor.

Society Hill, Oakvale: Aug. 5-10; 7 p.m.; Charles Broome, evangelist; Rob Schepers, music; L. C. Anthony, pastor.

Hurley (Jackson): July 29; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., and worship, 11 a.m.; Ernest Sadler, missions director, Jackson Association, evangelist; gospel singing featuring Endless Praise, Mobile, Ala.; Breau Taggart, pastor.

Walthall (Webster): July 29-Aug. 1; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sonny Adkins, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Danny and Jennifer (Donohoo) Davis, music; William Weddle, pastor.

Thompson, Smithdale: July 29-Aug. 1; Sunday, 11 a.m. worship, potluck dinner at noon, and 1 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Clint Pressley, Charlotte, N. C., evangelist; Mark Brown, McComb, music; Jay Victory, pastor.

Double Springs, Maben: July 29-Aug. 3; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Rueben "Lucky" Teague, Jasper, Ala., evangelist; Billy Hester, Maben, and Julie McCool, Eupora, music; John S. Foles, pastor.

Mt. Olive, Smithdale: July 29-Aug. 1; Sunday, 11 a.m. service, dinner on the grounds, and service immediately following; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.

New Zion, Lawrence: July 29-Aug. 3; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Wed., senior adult service at 11 a.m. and covered dish meal; James Messer, evangelist; Hubert Greer, leading worship; Blain McLain, pastor.

Sardis (Smith): Aug. 6-8; services begin at 7 p.m. nightly; Wayne Adams, Anniston, Ala., evangelist; Ray Ainsworth, music, Eastside, Magee; John Purvis, pastor.

Siloam, Magee: Aug. 5-8; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Buddy Keyes, Richton, evangelist; Robert Rolling, Moselle, music; Gerald Aultman, pastor.

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Mike Clark is pastor of Rock Bluff.

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BWA turns down CBF membership

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI, Canada (BP) — The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) has declined for now to grant membership status to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), a group of moderates who broke away from the Southern Baptist Convention as it assumed a more conservative direction over the past 20 years.

Meeting July 2-7 in Charlottetown, the coastal birthplace of Canada, BWA leaders turned down four applications for membership, including CBF.

Ian Hawley, general director of the Australian Baptist Missionary Society and chair of the BWA membership committee, explained that the committee "felt the CBF did not meet certain criteria and especially in the area of their identity. We felt that the line was not clear," Hawley said, "(and) we felt they are still defining their identity and are closer to a well-run missionary society at this stage than a convention."

CBF marks decade; debates homosexuality

ATLANTA (ABP) — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) celebrated its 10th anniversary in Atlanta with a record attendance and a challenge from former President Jimmy Carter in a three-day meeting marred by a debate over homosexuality.

Carter, who last October renounced ties with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), urged a Georgia World Congress Center crowd estimated at 8,100 to form partnerships with other moderate Baptists to advance what he called "traditional" Baptist views.

"I think the time has come for maybe CBF to take the leadership and for traditional Baptists to begin to reach out more aggressively to one another," said Carter. By combining efforts, Carter said moderate-led groups could strengthen global missions and education of future ministers.

"If there are other Baptists who don't respond and don't want to cooperate: who cares? Forget them and move on as Christians and as Baptists, just following Jesus," he said, in a veiled reference to the SBC.

About 5,100 people registered for the June 28-30 General Assembly, making it the largest CBF annual gathering so far. The Fellowship, formed in 1991 over differences with conservative leaders of the SBC, this year struggled with differences within the CBF over homosexuality.

After debate, delegates voted 701-502 to uphold a policy adopted earlier by the group's Coordinating Council against hiring openly gay persons as

missionaries or employees or funding divinity schools that include sexual orientation in their open-admission policies.

Opponents to the policy, described by leaders as "welcoming but not affirming" of gays, charged that the council overstepped its bounds because the Fellowship as a whole had never adopted a position on homosexuality.

Any published statement by CBF leaders is "presumed to

represent all of us," said Larry Dipboye, supporting a motion urging the General Assembly to set the policy aside one year for study of the issue.

CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal, who said he drafted and takes responsibility for the policy, contended that it "recognizes where most moderate Baptists are on this issue."

Next year's meeting is scheduled June 27-29 in Fort Worth, Texas.

STAFF CHANGES

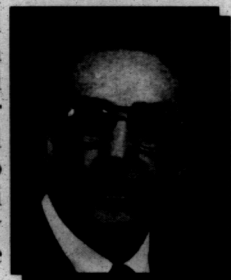


Brown and Dasch

Centreville Church, Centreville, has called **Lonnie Brown** and **Mikel Dasch**, as their newest staff members. Brown (left) is minister of music and began serving July 15. Dasch, minister to students, began full-time service on June 1. He previ-

ously served for two years as part-time minister to students while attending New Orleans Seminary. John Brashier is pastor.

Al Gaspard will retire from the pastorate of First Church, Houston, on July 29. He and his wife Jeannie will be honored that day with a reception in Fellowship Hall from 2-4 p.m. Gaspard pastored churches in central Louisiana for 30 years and came to Mississippi from New Hope Church, Calcasieu, where he served for 19 years. A native of Gueydan, La., he is a graduate of Louisiana College, Pineville, and did graduate work at Northwestern University at Natchitoches, La. Gaspard and his wife will move to Cookeville, Tenn., where they will be close to their children.



Gaspard

Johns Church, Brandon, has called **Gary Blakeney** as pastor effective May 13. He previously served as assistant pastor for three years at Southside Church, Metro Association. A native of Rankin County, Blakeney is a graduate of Mississippi State University and is completing his Master of Divinity degree at Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson.

Street tapped as CBF-MS coordinator

JACKSON, Miss. (Special) — Steve Street, co-pastor of Rivercrest Fellowship in Jackson for the past eight years, has been named the first full-time coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Mississippi (CBF-MS).

Street, 40, was selected by a six-member search committee led by Jane Allison of Hattiesburg, current CBF-MS

moderator. Allison's husband Richard is pastor of University Church, Hattiesburg.

Street's selection was approved by the 28-member CBF-MS Coordinating Council on July 14. He will begin his new duties on September 1.

Street will replace Bradley Pope of Clinton, who plans to retire after four years as part-time CBF-MS coordinator.

A Columbus native, Street is a 1982 graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, and holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. He earned his doctoral degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

Street, who has served Rivercrest bivocationally, is the former owner of Omega Auto Glass in Jackson. His wife Carla, who co-pastors the church, is also a chaplain with

the Mississippi National Guard.

Prior to starting Rivercrest, Steve Street was minister to single adults at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and First Church, Charlotte, N.C.; and youth minister at Fairview Church, Columbus, and First Church, Pontotoc.

CBF-MS is one of 20 state and regional organizations affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, begun in 1991 by moderate Southern Baptists disenchanted with the leadership and positions of the Southern Baptist Convention, which has moved in an increasingly conservative direction during the past 20 years.

Serving with Allison on the search committee that selected Street were Stan Rushing, Ken Redford, and Jim Newton of Clinton; Jean Daniel of Starkville; and Rebecca Wiggs of Jackson.



NEW COORDINATOR — Steve Street (right) co-pastor of Rivercrest Fellowship in Jackson, was selected July 14 to become the first full-time coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Mississippi. Bradley Pope (left) of Clinton, plans to retire from the part-time coordinator position he has held for four years. (Photo by Jim Newton)

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* Friday morning Women's Conference with Johnnie Lord.

STUDENT INFO NEEDED

Editor:

Every year students from across the country come to Lexington, Va., to begin study at either Virginia Military Institute or Washington & Lee University.

It is both advantageous and equally difficult to locate Baptist students and others who are interested in Baptist Student Union (BSU) before they arrive on campus.

I would appreciate any assistance from the churches in your state to locate these students before the start of the 2001-02 academic year.

Two years ago, an incoming freshman contacted the Lexington Area BSU because of the publication of this letter in the state Baptist paper.

He has since served as a BSU Summer Missionary, and will be serving as BSU president this year. You are an invaluable resource for reaching our students!

I can be reached at 120 W. Nelson Street, Lexington, VA

24450 or (540) 463-5366 or lexbsu@hotmail.com.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated as we work together to reach and strengthen our future leaders in the name of Christ.

Daniel H. Ingram
Baptist Campus Minister

CANDIDATES NEEDED

Editor:

Having just arrived in Utah-Idaho to begin ministry in the state office I have two real and pressing needs. Our current Women's Consultant is relocating to Wyoming.

We are also in need of a language consultant. Therefore, we are looking for two qualified candidates to join our ministry team.

These are critical positions and not every person would be suited for ministering in a pioneer area.

More importantly, we are looking for that very person whom God has equipped for each position for a day such as this.

We will accept resumes through July 31 sent to my attention at P. O. Box 1347, Draper, Utah 84020. Fax: (801) 572-5347.

Tim Clark, executive director
Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention
Draper, Utah

ON THE AIR

Editor:

The Mississippi Baptist Hams Net is affiliated with the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and is dedicated to Christian fellowship and training for disaster relief purposes.

We meet Sundays at 1:30 p.m. (Central Time) on the frequency 7260 kHz (or 3862 kHz if conditions warrant). Further information about the Mississippi Baptist Hams Fellowship and this net is available from the net manager, Chuck Peay, WB5OUK e-mail: cpeay784@aol.com.

Our officers for 2001 are:

- President: Lew King W5LEW, Clinton
- Vice President: Malcolm Keown, W5XX, Vicksburg
- Secretary: Dale Harrison, WF5F, Baldwyn
- Net manager: Chuck Peay, WB5OUK, Ackerman

Current Net Control Stations are:

- First Sunday: Dale Harrison, WF5F, Baldwyn
- Second Sunday: George Edmonson, W5BY, Brookhaven
- Third Sunday: Malcolm Keown, W5XX, Vicksburg
- Fourth Sunday: Frank Barnes, WA5GDF, Biloxi
- Fifth Sunday: Leroy Schilling, KK5ED, Terry

Our format usually includes praise reports and prayer requests, a devotional, prayer, and roundtable comments on happenings in our churches. Opportunity is also given for formal and informal message traffic to be listed. All Mississippi Baptist ham radio operators are invited to check-in whenever possible.

Lew King
Clinton



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.



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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Believing in the risen Lord

John 20:19-31

By Kathy Mord Alford

My hand clasped my father's; I memorized its work-worn farmer's contours while recalling its gentle, resourceful touch to a newborn calf, a broken tractor, a begging cat, and an inquisitive little girl.

The memory of holding my dad's hand helps me envision the unseen hand holding mine now. Jesus' miraculous touch has guided me through the years, not just in faith times, but also in times of doubt and confusion. Often I discover that, when my focus is not on God, doubts are likely to arise.

Several years passed before I realized how the hand of God led me into a crisis of faith in college. In my religion courses, the professor's own distorted faith caused me to explore and determine what my beliefs really were.

Eastern religions, reincarnation, and a perverted form of Christianity were the substance of study, and eventually I concluded that the major difference in our theologies was that his gods' graves are not empty and my God's grave is.

Then there was the time two cult members visited me, citing Scripture which claimed that Jesus is not God. When they left, my confused spirit cried out, "God, show me the truth." Through his Word, he did and he continues to reveal himself to me.

God invites us to seek him and promises to reward seekers. He is willing to give us the sufficient answers we need in order to believe. In *The Case for Christ*, Lee Strobel tells of his two-year spiritual journey as he investigated Christianity from



Alford

the legal perspective of a prosecutor.

Strobel, a then self-avowed drunken, self-absorbed, immoral atheist, Yale Law School graduate, and legal affairs editor of the *Chicago Tribune* at the time, applied all his training to examine his case against Christ and interviewed thirteen leading scholars and authorities with impeccable academic credentials.

Dr. Alexander Methereil debunks the swoon theory and deflates the resurrection-hoax hypothesis. Jesus could never have survived the rigors of the cross. Moreover, the Roman soldiers would not have allowed a live victim to be removed from a cross.

Methereil argues, "Even if Jesus had somehow lived through the torture, his ghastly condition could never have inspired a worldwide movement based on the premise that he had gloriously triumphed over the grave."

William Lane Craig points out that Jewish and Roman officials never disputed the empty grave of Jesus. Gary Habermas's interview prompted Strobel to conclude that "if you were to call each one of the witnesses [who saw the resurrected Jesus] to a court of law to be cross-examined for just fifteen minutes each . . . [we would hear] 129 straight hours of eyewitness testimony."

The probability of just eight of the Messianic prophecies being fulfilled is one chance in one hundred million billion. Louis Lapides, Jewish-Christian pastor, offered "fingerprint evidence" that Jesus, and only Jesus, fulfilled all the prophecies.

This evidence and more in Strobel's book dare skeptics to render a verdict based on the weight of the facts, not on whims or prejudices. The conclusion Strobel himself reached was that "it would require much more faith for me to maintain my atheism than to trust in Jesus of Nazareth!"

Jesus met the disciple

Thomas in his doubts. He offered peace and his nail-pierced hand, essentially what he offers you and me: "Reach here your finger, and see my hands." Scripture does not indicate that Thomas touched Jesus physically, but we can be sure that, when he saw Jesus' hands, he recognized them as the hands that had worked the works of God.

Look around. Works of God abound. Jesus promised, "He who believes in me, the works that I do shall he do also...." Absolute certainty is not guaranteed, but God, in his goodness, supplies faith for what we lack.

C.S. Lewis sums it up. "You can shut [Jesus] up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

Alford is a member of First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Love's invitation

Hosea 6:1-6; 7:13-16

By Harold Simmons

God calls us to repent of our sin and turn to him. He gives us every opportunity to serve him and have a loving relationship with him.

A special invitation (6:1-3). Have you ever received a special, formal invitation to an event. "Your presence is requested" . . . the event, time, place, and date are always included. An invitation that formal is always for something very special.

Although the invitation that God issued through Hosea was not formal, it was very special. The tone of the invitation was very personal and intimate. "Come, let us return to the Lord" was very warm and sounds like a gathering of close friends or family.

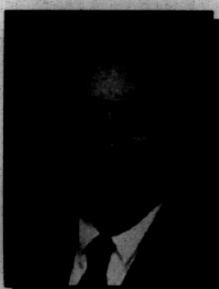
The next section of verse one seems to be a recognition that relationships are strained.

The relationship between God and his people had reached a level of disciplinary action.

The strain that had been put on the covenant relationship between God and his people was the strain of sin. They refused to turn from their rebellious life and he had no alternative but to discipline them.

The phrases "he has torn us to pieces" and "but he will heal us" take only two words in Hebrew to express. One is a word of discipline and one is a word of restoration.

In both cases, the initiative and the causation of the action is God. God is ever beginning an act of love and forgiveness toward man. He starts the



Simmons

motion but it is the responsibility of humankind to respond to God's invitation.

The notation of time is listed in verse 2. "After two days" and "on the third day" are figures for short periods of time. Soon, very soon, he will restore his people. The end result

of responding is that his people will be able to live in his presence.

This is a joyful reunion celebration. But like any invitation, our response to God's invitation determines the tone of the gathering. If we respond to God in a positive manner, there is joy in heaven the Scripture tells us.

A meaningless response (6:4-6). The initial part of verse 6 sounds like any exasperated parent talking with a child who repeatedly disobeyed. "What am I going to do with you?" This is the comment of one trying without success to correct the behavior of another.

God has tried everything, including discipline, to correct the behavior of his wayward children. They have responded to him, but only in a superficial manner.

Hosea characterizes their response to God as "morning mist." There is change from the norm but it is not lasting. It has neither depth nor density. It amounts to nothing.

It is easy to say, "I love the Lord," but living like we do love him is another matter. We can pray great prayers and make great pronouncements, but if our lives do not exhibit on a day-to-day basis what we have said, it is nothing but a "smoke screen" — "morning mist."

In verse 5 "therefore" shows God's reaction to their meaningless response. More discipline was in store and on the way! God's judgement would be both punitive and redemptive.

In the next verse, God points out what he really wants from them: "I want mercy (*hesed*) or love" not sacrifices. Sacrifices

were rituals that required no change in the person offering the sacrifice. Mercy (love) is a deep emotion that requires a true change in a person's whole lifestyle.

The wrong way (7:13-16). Imagine a football game in which the running back is given the ball and he immediately turns and runs toward the opposing team's goal.

Sure there is less resistance in running that way but that is not the object of the game. The object of the game is to gain as many points as possible against the opposing team, not to give them points.

The people of God had turned away from God and ran the other way from his relationship with them. This caused God to pronounce doom for them rather than victory.

God's invitation is always for mankind to turn to him for victory in this life and the next. Only by answering God's call to repentance and loyalty, can there be celebration in our lives.

Simmons is pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in *The Baptist Record* must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to *The Baptist Record*, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES



Volume 1 • A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION • Issue 1

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Hook 'em while they're young: Influence of the media

In the average Mississippi home, there are televisions, radios, magazines, books, videotapes, computers, and CD players. None are evil in and of themselves but many are used as vehicles to preach an unholy message of promiscuous sex, substance use and abuse, profanity, and violence to our children...and we let them.

A report released by the Surgeon General in January showed a scientific link between graphically violent television programming and increased aggression in children. In Torrington, Connecticut, a 13-year-old boy, Jason Lind, was hospitalized with second- and third-degree burns after mimicking an MTV personality who set himself on fire during a stunt show. Television producers have a responsibility to provide programming that is not harmful to minors.

Take for example, Fox's hit show, *Temptation Island*. Four real-life couples in committed (grain of salt added) relationships were taken to an exotic resort island off the coast of Belize in the Caribbean Sea.

The couples were separated into two groups of four men and four women and placed on different parts of the island in the midst of 26 singles chosen for their ability to tempt members of the opposite sex. The producers vow that the show is not about sex, yet all participants were tested for sexually transmitted diseases before being allowed on the show.

In one episode (January 24th), Mandy, involved in a "committed" relationship, is shown with her new date inside a hut taking turns licking various substances off one another's bodies. Billy, Mandy's boyfriend on the other side of the island, is forced to watch the scene on video. Very upset, he retaliates with sexcapades of his own. As Chuck Colson said in an article, "You have to wonder what kind of people would agree to this arrangement."

According to the AFA Journal, television has begun "sexploiting" America. Each of the networks plays a part. ABC, CBS, NBC, WB, and UPN consistently fill their programming with immoral relationships.



Yancey

"Thus we have a father who nonchalantly mentions to his family that he enjoys watching pornography on cable (Grounded for Life, Fox, 1/10/01); a grown man shamelessly watching a woman in the next building with binoculars, complete with a crude comment about the woman's physical form (Friends, NBC, 1/11/01) euphemisms for male genitals (Spin City, ABC, 1/17/01), female genitals (Will & Grace, NBC, 1/04/01), and masturbation (The Drew Carey Show, ABC, 1/17/01)." Homosexuality is featured in a positive light in most prime-time television shows.

Whether it is a Barbie doll or Britney Spears, little girls are taught that clothing, possessions, and appearances are everything. While Spears insists she's still a virgin, the message she is sending is anything but G-rated. Thanks at least partly to Spears, the marketing of sexy clothes and make-up to pre-pubescent girls is booming.

I know Spears is not the first to set bare fashion trends but she is the first to influence my five-year-old daughter and I don't like it. When the media uses someone like Britney Spears to portray the ideal teenage girl as someone who looks and dresses like her, many teenage girls realize they will never live up to society's expectation of them.

Girls starve themselves to be thin or binge eat and make themselves throw up to try to achieve the perfection modeled in the media. Many girls turn to drugs and/or alcohol.

Likewise, profanity has also become rampant in the media. Andy Rooney wrote a review of

the movie "Traffic." His four comments were: "1. I didn't understand half of it. 2. I didn't like the half I did understand. 3. I thought the picture was fake arty. It's wrong to set out to produce a work of art. You try to produce something good and hope people call it a work of art. 4. The language was inexcusably dirty. The vulgar four-letter 'F' word was used 50 times. That's the actual number."

Why is it that profanity has to be used in movies and television? I can't begin to tell you how many movies I have seen that would have been so good were it not for a senseless use of profanity. In one episode, HBO's newest hit, "The Sopranos," had 90 profane words in 50 minutes.

In Erin Brockovich, even Julia Roberts used the 'F' word.

The Bible teaches us that "out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks." I pray that our hearts in America can be broken and changed.

"Hannibal", the sequel to "Silence of the Lambs," grossed an estimated \$58 million in its opening weekend. In one particularly disturbing scene, Hannibal practices cannibalism on a living man. USA Today reported that all over the country, parents are taking kids, some as young as 8, to see "Hannibal."

One parent commented, "I just put my hand over her face at the bad parts." However, the mother added that her daughter is not frightened by movies like this. "I guess it is because we watch them so often," she said. Terribly, we are observing in America today that children have been desensitized to the point that most blatant forms of twisted and sick behavior do not even bother them.

According to Bob Waliszewski in *Living With Teenagers*, here are some ways parents can help protect children and teens from negative media influence:

- **Keep the TV out in the open.** Allowing teens to have a television in their own rooms effectively prevents you from monitoring them.

- **Find out about movies beforehand.** You wouldn't let someone commit sexual acts or use drugs in front of your child — don't let your kids watch programs or movies that glamorize these behaviors. One excellent source for media reviews is *Plugged In* magazine's website, www.family.org/pluggedin.



- **Speak up.** When you see something on TV that is blatantly wrong, let your teen know the biblical reason why you don't approve.

- **Talk about what they see.** When your son or daughter comes home from watching a movie, discuss what he or she watched. Ask about the plot, whether the characters were worth imitating, and whether the movie was satisfying or disappointing (and why).

- **Walk out.** Don't be afraid to get up and leave during a movie if its content is inappropriate. Most times, theaters will refund your money. Likewise, change channels if a television program starts to sour.

- **Dispense with commercials.** Many commercials, even during family-friendly programs, are not up to family standards. Hit the mute button when commercials come on. You may even decide to record your favorite shows and fast-forward through the ads.

- **Remember who's watching.** The best protection when making media choices is to remember that God is watching along with you.

- **Consider a media fast.** When Hollywood asks you to sit back and turn off your mind, say "no." Try turning off your TV, movies, and videos for a week or a month. Read a book, take a walk, talk with friends, and enjoy the quiet around you.

If you are interested in receiving Christian Action updates

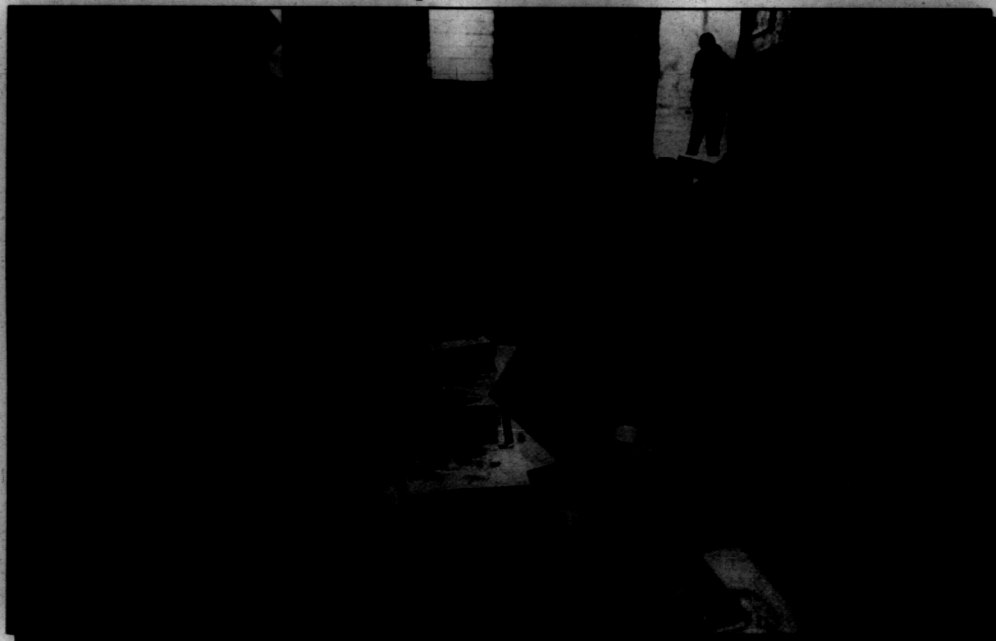
via the internet and will share this information with friends and your church, please e-mail us at rwwood@mbcb.org.

Include your name, address, phone number, and church name.

Church-planting movements catching on

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — All over the world, new Christians and new churches are multiplying in number and changing the face of Southern Baptist missions in the process.

Consider two facts gleaned from Southern Baptist missionary reports on the year just past:



GOSPEL WILDFIRE — Church-planting movements — the spontaneous, rapid multiplication of new disciples and congregations — are taking root even in restricted-access countries and producing a plentiful harvest. (Photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

Observers expect even more dramatic reports in the future.

Church-planting movements are taking root even in restricted-access countries and producing a plentiful harvest. More than just adding churches one at a time, church planting movements are characterized by exponential growth — churches planting new churches, converts making new converts.

"After the new believers/leaders are baptized, they are so on fire that we simply cannot hold them back," said a missionary who has witnessed a similar movement among refugees in the Netherlands.

"They fan out all over the country starting Bible studies, and a few weeks later we begin to get word back how many have started.

"It's the craziest thing we ever saw! We did not start it, and we couldn't stop it if we wanted to," the missionary said.

These church-planting movements are beginning to gain steam to the extent that last year just a handful of the movements made substantial contributions to IMB's overall statistics for the year.

In fact, the strategy for developing church-planting movements is becoming IMB's strategy for church-planting efforts around the world — whether in a slow-growth country or a harvest field.

"The International Mission Board has always been focused on indigenous church planting but has not always practiced methods that would result in rapidly multiplying congregations," said IMB President Jerry Rankin.

"The impact we are now seeing through church-planting movements gives us greater hope to seeing our vision fulfilled of giving all the peoples of the world access to the gospel of Jesus Christ," he pointed out.

In East Asia, church planting movements are making a significant impact.

"(Recently) we started to spread the Good News in many different factories," said a Christian worker in the region. "At the same time, we train leaders and trainers.

"We find that the development has been surprisingly fast. It is very hard to count the exact numbers of churches. (One area) has about 15 churches.

"Over the past two weeks, they have established 28 new family Bible study groups and 21 new workers' Bible study groups. The total number of new believers is about 3,000."

The IMB does not report Bible study groups as churches but as outreach groups.

While church planting movements like these are cause for praising God, the road isn't always easy. Sometimes growth is slowed or even stopped in its tracks.

Workers say certain obstacles can inhibit the faith and spiritual maturity that would produce greater results. Among those obstacles: dependence on foreign money and foreign help, extra-biblical requirements for leadership and the church and poor Christian role models.

"It is becoming evident that reaching our world for Christ is doable," said Rankin.

- Read about four church-planting movements: <http://www.imb.org/CPM/Chapter2.htm>

- Order a free video on church-planting movements (Item 15): <http://www.imb.org/resources>

- Video challenge: Join God in the global harvest! <http://real.imb.org:8080/ramgen/Media/annualreport.rm>

- Facts and figures about IMB work all over the world: <http://www.imb.org/Features/fast-facts.htm>

- Search for megacity prayer requests: <http://www.imb.org/CompassionNet/megacities.asp>

- Three church-planting movements played a major role in fueling a 37.4% increase in the total number of new churches over 1999.

- In East Asia, baptisms among just one people group exploded with 114,000 in one year. Just eight years ago, only 85 Christians and three churches existed in the province.

The emergence of church-planting movements — the spontaneous, rapid multiplication of new disciples and congregations — had a dramatic impact on International Mission Board (IMB) statistics in 2000.

WMU series promotes basic Christian concepts

NEW ORLEANS (BP)— Jesus went to church. Jesus prayed. Jesus said, "You are my friends." Jesus loves you.

These are some of the messages of Good Things Jesus Did, one of a new series of books published for young preschoolers by the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The book is part of the Missions and Me Series. Rhonda Reeves, editor of preschool resources for WMU, is the primary author of the series, along with co-author Jennifer Law, who was editor at New Hope Publishers from 1996-99.

The goal of the books, Reeves said, is "to provide teachers and parents materials that help teach the basic concepts of Christian education in very simple terms to babies through age three."

She also says older preschoolers learning to read will enjoy reading them to younger children.

Themes of the books center on God, Jesus, God's creation, community, world, self, family, church, and the Bible. Each book addresses one of these topics and illustrates the lesson with words and pictures appropriate for younger preschoolers.

Bright colors and short sentences, characteristic of picture books, carry out each topic in an age-appropriate manner.

For instance, in I Can Help Others, the child is taught that God made many different kinds of people. Pictures illustrate that some of these people are sick and need help, and some are hungry and need food.

The book then leads the child to realize that everyone can help other people with needs. That naturally leads to

pages illustrating that some people teach others about God and pray for others.

The child is encouraged to know that they are also able to tell others about God and to pray.

In I Like to Go to Church, children will identify with pictures of children playing with blocks, singing, and listening to stories taught by a teacher.

The strong message of love includes acknowledgment of teachers at church who demonstrate love by sharing Bible sto-

ries, and ministers who are friends and teach children about Jesus.

Each book is colorful and visually appealing to children, and includes a variety of races, ages, and ethnic backgrounds. Tim Robinson, a freelance artist, and Cheryl Totty, graphic artist for WMU, were the designers on the series.

Reeves believes this series of books will be useful for parents as well as teachers of preschoolers, and she envisions the books being used in Mission Friends and Sunday School classes and in preschools as well as with children at home.

The books will help parents and teachers alike acquaint children, even the youngest, with Christian concepts, she said.

Titles presently in print include: Thank You, God for My Bible, Tell Me About God, Families Are Special, I Like to Go to Church, I Can Help Others, Good Things Jesus Did, and God's Beautiful World and Myself.

Books in the Missions and Me series can be purchased through WMU by calling (800) 968-7301 or visiting their online bookstore at www.wmystore.com. The books also available through LifeWay Christian Bookstore.

Bibliocipher

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CTXIWTG VXKT WTTS ID
UPQATH PCS TCSATHH
VTCTPADVXTH, LWXRW
BXCXHITG FJTHIXDCH,
GPIWTG IWPC VDSAN
TSXUNXCV LWXRW XH
XC UPXIW; HD SD.

UXGHI IXBDIWN DCT:

UDJG

Clue: C = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Seven: Four.